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EQUAL JUSTICE

Through awareness, education and action

"Legal Education for a Diverse Society" (Part II)

An official publication of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission

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Five Community Justice Centers

Seattle University School of Law

Access to Justice Institute

*Sudha Shetty, Director, with assistance from
Kymberly Evanson, Program Coordinator*

Academic institutions and the legal profession have a responsibility to improve access to justice among our community's underserved populations. The only way genuine access can be achieved is through more significant partnerships between law schools, private attorneys, and communities that surround

them. In addition, enabling law students to work first hand with community members will enrich their dedication to social justice and instill a desire to continue to play a role in social change after law school.

The Access to Justice Institute at the Seattle University School of Law has launched five "Community Justice Centers," innovative new projects dedicated to achieving these ideals in our community. The Centers aim to bring community development and social change in communities least represented. The Centers bring volunteer law students and attorneys into underserved communities to provide free topic-based legal education and advice. The topics are selected with community input and correspond to unmet needs.

The Centers are designed to be a consistent presence in each community, open at the same time on the same day at the same place every week. The topics are covered in two week periods. The first session provides an educational presentation on the topic while the following week is reserved for attorney appointments. The presentation is given by an expert attorney in that particular field and is open to the public. At the conclusion of the presentation, any low-income clients that feel they need more individualized attention from an attorney have the opportunity to go through an intake with a law student and make an appointment to see a pro bono attorney for a free consultation the following week.

Along with the volunteer law students, volunteer attorneys play an essential role in the work of the Community Justice Centers. Pro bono attorneys from area firms and legal service agencies are recruited according to area of specialty to share their expertise either through educational presentation or individual consultations. The unique topic-based format of the Centers enables attorneys to make significant contributions to these communities while giving

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EQUAL JUSTICE

Equal Justice is the official publication of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission whose goal is elimination of racial and ethnic bias, where it exists, from our state courts. The newsletter is a communications and networking tool providing information about programs, projects and issues of concern.

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Telephone: (360) 705-5327
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Tribute to a Judicial Pioneer
Judge Liem Eng Tuai
Justice Charles Z. Smith, Retired



The longer I am privileged to live, the more likely it becomes I will mourn the deaths of some of my dearest friends. One such friend was retired King County Superior Court Judge Liem Eng Tuai, who died in Seattle on March 2, 2003 at age 77.

I first met Judge Tuai in 1953 when we were both students at the University of Washington Law School. Our friendship began and continued for fifty years until his death. I have many fond memories of Liem Tuai. In addition to his absolute devotion to his family (his wife Winnie Joyce Eng who preceded him in death; his sons Walter, Gregory and David; and his daughter-in-law Benling and his granddaughters Alexandra and Cassandra), he was intelligently devoted to public service and manifested absolute integrity in everything he undertook.

Judge Tuai was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County; in the private practice of law with Nickell, Quinn, Tuai and Mah; served on the Seattle City Council; and was appointed to the King County Superior Court by Governor Dixie Lee Ray. Upon his appointment, Judge Tuai, along with Judges Warren Chan and Richard M. Ishikawa, constituted the only Asian American judges in the State. Judges Chan and Ishikawa are now retired.

With his passion for excellence and hard work, Judge Tuai, until his retirement from the Superior Court, was an acknowledged role model for lawyers and judges who admired his intelligence, forthrightness and compassion. As an Asian American fiercely proud of his Chinese ancestry, he especially stimulated other Asian Americans who became judges at different levels. Today in the State of Washington Asian Americans serving on the court are: Court of Appeals Judge Kenneth H. Kato; King County Superior Court Judges Linda Lau, Dean Lum and Mary I Yu; Spokane County Superior Court Judge Ellen Kalama Clark; Yakima County Superior Court Commissioner Robert W. Inouye; Seattle District Court Judges Mark Chow, Eileen A. Kato and Marianne Chi Spearman; Chelan County District Court Judge Alicia H. Nakata; Seattle Municipal Court Judges Ron A. Mamiya and C. Kimi Kondo;

Seattle Municipal Court Magistrate Francis de Villa; and Tukwila Municipal Court Commissioner Park Eng. This moves us a step further towards inclusiveness in the judiciary—a concept which was very meaningful to Judge Tuai.

The editors of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission newsletter, *Equal Justice*, in noting the death of Judge Liem Eng Tuai, honor him for the special meaning he gave to all our lives.

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Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society

(Continued from page 1)

only a few hours of their time. The format also benefits clients because it enables clients to speak with an attorney in a particular field rather than an attorney unfamiliar with the particular area of law and issues.

The first Community Justice Centers opened in October 2002 in Seattle's Central District and Bellevue's Crossroad neighborhoods. Because the role of law students is central to the project, the Centers operate on a semester time schedule, providing services in ten-week increments. Last fall, the Centers offered education and advice on Landlord/Tenant Law, Unemployment and Employment Law, Wills and Estate Planning, and Small Business. This spring, three additional Centers will serve Burien's White Center community, Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood and the International District in Seattle. Additional topics will include Health Law, Traffic Infractions, Tax Law, and Juvenile Justice.

This project is truly unique because it combines resources, experiences, and talents of community partners, private law firms, and law students in providing direct service within communities that need it most.

To view the mission statement and other programs offered at the Institute, visit the website at: www.law.seattleu.edu/accesstojustice.

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Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society

Student Perspective
Seattle University School of Law
Donna Fread

It gave me lots of good practical information I did not necessarily receive in class. I was impressed with the way attorneys treated people, who are poor, with respect explaining things in English but not speaking down to them.

My plan is to do pro bono work and this experience has further encouraged me in that

plan. I observed attorneys making a difference in people who can not afford legal services and yet need services; attorneys changing the picture of attorneys.

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Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society

Commitment to Diversity
Central Washington University
Law and Justice Department
Charles E. Reasons, Professor

The Law and Justice Department (Department) at Central Washington University (CWU) is committed to diversity education and has adopted the following objective. The objective may also be found on its home page: www.cwu.edu/~lajhome/.

Recognizing that the role of Law and Justice is constantly evolving in a dynamic society, the Law and Justice Department's mission is to provide students with a broad background in history, philosophy and current trends in law and society, emphasizing the importance of diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, sexual orientation and gender issues.

A relatively new program at the CWU, the Law and Justice Department was implemented in the early 1990s. In addition to being offered at the main Ellensburg campus, the program is offered at campuses located in Yakima, Steilacoom, SeaTac, and Lynnwood. At its inception the program was staffed by an all white male faculty. Currently, it has seven full-time faculty consisting of one Asian American, one Hispanic American, two women, and three white men. The diversity of the faculty is further complimented by part-time adjunct professors who reflect the diversity of the larger community and serve as role models for students by presenting varying perspectives and insights experienced by people of color.

Many of the courses offered by the Law and Justice Department have incorporated issues of diversity in an attempt to provide an expansive

educational experience for students. Seniors are required to take a mandatory course titled, "Ethics, Diversity and Conflict in Criminal Justice," which analyzes contradictions in the law, explores experiences of people with diverse backgrounds, and shares alternative methodologies for conflict resolution. Seniors are also required to participate in a seminar titled, "Current Issues in Law and Justice," providing students with an opportunity to think about and to discuss with classmates issues in the current justice system, such as reasons behind criminal conduct, the rationale behind the development of a law, and ramifications of the law on society, all of which expose students to broader perspectives on the issue of diversity.

One of the goals of the CWU and the Department is to serve the local community in the central Washington area and its large Hispanic American population. Professor Rodrigo Murataya, as the Director of the Yakima Center, has made great strides in reaching out to its local community and in building a relationship through participation in local Hispanic organizations, making announcements in Spanish on the local Spanish radio station, and making presentations at local high schools. The Department also regularly invites speakers, from diverse communities to campus forums and departmental banquets, to share values of and to stress the importance of a diverse society to students and faculty.

The CWU has been approved for a Masters of Science in Law and Justice Program by the Higher Education Board for the State of Washington. However, implementation of the program is postponed until funding is received. Once established, the program will implement classes such as "Race, Class, Gender and the Administration of Justice" and "Ethical Issues" and "Personnel Issues in the Legal System," which will address issues related to ethnic, racial and gender diversity and hiring practices in the justice system. The CWU eagerly anticipates its commencement

which will further its efforts in providing an inclusive education to those already in the field of law and justice and to those interested in pursuing a career in the field.

Advisory Board for the Law and Justice Department

The Board is committed to diversity on its Board and has achieved great strides in diversifying its Board, which meets twice a year. However, the Board continues to seek prospective members from various ethnic legal and professional organizations. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Charles Reasons at (509) 963-1779 or Charles.Reasons@cwu.edu.



Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society

Student Perspective

*Central Washington University
Chris Trevino*

When I initially enrolled in the "Current Issues in Law and Justice" course this past fall, I did so with the sole intention of fulfilling my major requirements. However, by the conclusion of the quarter I realized why the founders of our Law and Justice program made this course a requirement and not an elective. We discussed many controversial issues concerning our criminal justice system, many of which are not openly discussed in our law enforcement departments or our courts. We studied racial profiling, violence against sexual minorities, court cases and the influence of race, class and gender, racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system, socioeconomic status in relation to sentencing, racial segregation in United States prison systems, and much more. We were encouraged to talk about the issues that are not candidly talked about, we made the implicit explicit, and strived to make the unconscious conscious. We examined studies from around the nation that began to enlighten the darkest corners of our law enforcement departments and our criminal justice system as a whole. In light of the results of those studies, one might conclude that much more has to be done.



Courses similar to these should be required for all majors. Our Law and Justice program also requires all students to enroll in a course called "Ethics, Diversity, and Conflict in Criminal Justice." This course introduces students to a multi-cultural approach to practical legal ethics within the criminal justice system and covers aspects of law enforcement, corrections, and alternative dispute resolution. These types of courses help generate a greater awareness of diversity throughout our country and should not be limited to specific fields. We live in a largely diverse society and cultural diversity is pertinent in any occupation. Diversity is everywhere. For these reasons, I believe courses and programs promoting awareness of cultural diversity should be institutionalized. Everyone should be introduced to the idea of diversity.

In regard to the legal profession, awareness of cultural diversity should be of special importance. Lawyers should have a basic understanding of all cultures to better serve their clients, offering knowledgeable advice within a cultural context. Understanding one's client could prove to be just as important as understanding the law. An awareness of cultural diversity would not hinder a career in any manner. Rather, it would further enhance one's understanding of people, and be beneficial not only to one's career but also to one's general knowledge of life.

Our criminal justice system has evidenced de facto (in fact) and de jure (in law) discrimination specifically aimed at minorities, and these problems need to be addressed in the near future. Elimination of these biases explicitly in law and in practice is vital to our criminal justice system in order for our system to preserve its nobility. Programs and studies similar to the aforementioned help generate a greater awareness of these issues and call them to everyone's attention. More studies focusing on the biases that flood our criminal justice system need to be conducted and published for all to read and think about. Only then, will justice be served blindly and with an equal hand.

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Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society

***Undergraduate Pipeline to Careers
in Law and Public Policy***
The Evergreen State College-Tacoma
Artee Young, Faculty Member

"A lawyer who is not a social engineer is a parasite on society."

-Charles Hamilton Houston-

The Evergreen State College-Tacoma Program offers an upper-division undergraduate liberal arts program designed to meet the learning needs of adult learners from diverse cultural and national backgrounds. The Program originated in response to students' interest in becoming knowledgeable about the law and its application to their own lives. Initially, students were concerned about encounters their children were having with the juvenile justice system and with the school districts in which their children matriculated. While this need came from just a few students, when the idea of courses in law was announced, many more expressed interest, not only those with legal problems but also those interested in law and society, as well as students contemplating legal careers.

Many of the students in the Tacoma Program are employed as either paraprofessionals and, in some instances, as professionals in state and local government, in community agencies and organizations, or in human services programs. Some of them are in entry-level jobs. The ages of students constitute a wide range; the average age is 31 years; 8% of them are in the 18-24 age group, while 7% are in the 55-59 age group. More than 1% are over 60 years of age. 74% of these students are female and 57% are students of color. The retention rate is an astounding 89.6%.

The Tacoma Program provides an invigorating academic environment and curriculum that facilitates maximum student potential through innovative interdisciplinary programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program provides important impetus for students as citizens. Through the curriculum, the program attempts to meet students' professional goals and bridge the gap between lay and professional status. Since there are no majors at Evergreen, the program in law and public policy serves as surrogate law school preparation.

The percentage of women and students of color addresses disparities in higher education and particularly in the fields of law and public policy. The diversity of students in law and public policy, within the context of a demographically diverse Tacoma Program population, provides a significant systemic adjustment for inclusion of minorities and persons of color through a pipeline to law school and graduate study in public policy and ultimately the professions. Providing program offerings in duplicate day and evening programs enhances advancement of a diverse professional corps. Every attempt is made to present precise reiteration of the classes offered in the curriculum.

Through its curriculum, supportive learning environment and values based pedagogy, the Tacoma Program has developed a pipeline for students interested in law and public policy careers.

Curricular and Co-curricular Overview

Studies in law and public policy provide a foundation for students interested in law school as well as graduate study in public policy. In 1991, for example, courses were designed, developed and implemented to support students' interest in law and public policy. To foster interest and further provide support for students' expressed desires or distant hopes for careers in law, a law club was also formed, and it continues to the present day. In the early days of the club, practicing attorneys were invited to speak to the group about their experiences and to encourage students toward their goals. In recent years, that group has included Tacoma Program graduates who are serving our communities as lawyers and as public policy experts.

The Tacoma Program places great emphasis on service to the communities from which students come. Evidence of that is everywhere, including its motto, which is borrowed from that of Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, "Enter to learn, depart to serve."

Service is also woven into curricular offerings. Program titles for each year are based upon consultation with community leaders and the faculty. This academic year, students are engaging in studies around "Seven Continents, Eleven Blocks, One Community."

Supportive Learning Environment

Mentorship, guidance, as well as personal and professional encouragement are provided to all students who enter the Tacoma Program. The school environment is one that fosters one-on-one support to all students. Students are assigned to faculty whose academic and professional backgrounds reflect the career interest of the individual student. Each faculty member is responsible for providing academic counseling, guidance and professional advice to students to which they are assigned. All students have a faculty advisor as well as a staff member who provides counseling and support services.

Values Based Pedagogy

The values upon which the curriculum is contextualized are civility, hospitality, inclusivity, and reciprocity. All students are encouraged to "give back" to their respective communities, particularly the Tacoma Hilltop community, where the Tacoma Program is located. One of the ways that law club students, after passing the bar examination, give back to our communities is through their commitment to indigent persons by providing pro bono legal service. Recently, law club members chose to formalize their commitment to our communities. They unanimously voted to sign a social contract with the club that recognizes the State's investment in them and their communities' needs. In return, members would give back pro bono services for at least two years.

Guest lecturers, many of whom are graduates of Evergreen-Tacoma, return to the campus to offer advice about preparing for law school and to address legal subjects of interest to the entire student body.

Based upon the Program's pedagogical values, curricular offerings, consistent support from faculty and staff and membership in the law club, students are introduced to the struggles in which attorneys have engaged in order to uplift our communities. Students acquire enhanced understanding of the sustained efforts and work required to break down structural barriers to opportunities in education, housing and the professions.

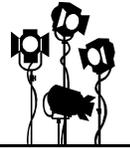
The impact of the program is widespread. Because of the diversity of the student population and the broad spectrum of communities from which they come (Pierce, King, Kitsap, Thurston and Snohomish Counties), students serve their communities in the work that they do in schools, community organizations, as well as private and public agencies.

The Tacoma Program provides a practicum in diversity of all kinds – race, ethnicity, age, class, worldview, nationality and political affiliation. The Evergreen State College-Tacoma might well be the most ethnically and politically diverse campus, per capita, in the State of Washington, and perhaps the Pacific Northwest.

Faculty and staff encourage and expect students to shoulder the mantle of Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Bella Abzug, Jack Greenberg and Elaine Jones. Students are encouraged and expected to continue work that is often under-appreciated but nonetheless necessary to ensure legal rights and representation for all. Tacoma-Evergreen students are the new social engineers for the 21st Century, those individuals who are seeking a just society for all.



Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society



**Spotlight
of Commission
Members**



***Justice Charles W. Johnson
Honored by University of Washington***

Justice Johnson received the distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Washington on May 8, 2003 for his distinguished work in the field of social science representing major divisions of the college of arts and science as well as the University of Washington.

Justice Johnson received his Bachelor of Economics from the University of Washington in 1973. He was elected to the Supreme Court in 1991 and currently serves as Co-Chairperson of the Minority and Justice Commission.



Celebrating the Courts in an Inclusive Society

***Mary Alice Theiler
United State Magistrate Judge
Western District of Washington State***

Mary Alice Theiler has been appointed to the position of United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Washington. Mary Alice Theiler has been a member of the Minority & Justice Commission since 1990, and was a member of the Minority and Justice Task Force from 1987-1990. She is a past President of the King County Bar Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association. She was a founding board member of the Access to Justice Board, and the Northwest Justice Project. Judge Theiler is a member of the Executive Committee of the Public Legal Education Council. She attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School. Before her appointment, Judge Theiler was a partner in the Seattle firm of Theiler Douglas Drachler & McKee, LLP.



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